

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6396

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, JM, CU
SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE FORMS MARXIST LEAGUE

1. SOME AMONG THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS TRAINED IN CUBA HAVE FORMED THEMSELVES INTO A GROUP CALLING ITSELF "THE JAMAICA YOUTH CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE LEAGUE". ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED ON OCTOBER 22 AT A MEETING AT THE CUBAN-BUILT JOSE MARTI SCHOOL NEAR SPANISH TOWN AT WHICH HOUSING MINISTER TONY SPAULDING WAS THE MOST PROMINENT PARTICIPANT. THE LEAGUE STATED THAT ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES INCLUDED:

"THE PRINCIPAL AIM OF THE LEAGUE SHALL BE TO FOSTER AND ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIALIST PROCESS IN JAMAICA, FOLLOWING THE WORKS EXPOUNDED BY KARL MARX AND FREDERICK (SIC) ENGELS IN THE THEORETICAL FIELD AND VLADIMIR ILYICH LENIN IN ESTABLISHING THE FIRST SOCIALIST STATE IN THE SOVIET UNION."

AFTER EXPRESSING ITS INTENTION TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE
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OF YOUTH AND THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS, THE STATEMENT PROPOSES THAT THE LEAGUE "BE AN AFFILIATE OF THE YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY.

2. THE ANNOUNCED DECISION OF THE LEAGUE TO ADHERE TO MARXISM HAS BROUGHT A PROMPT AND UNSURPRISING COMMENT FROM THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP). THE

PARTY'S LEADER, EDDIE SEAGA, SAID THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT
BY THE BRIGADE PERMITTED TWO POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS:

-- EITHER THE PNP GOVERNMENT SENT THE YOUTHS TO CUBA WITH THE
EXPRESS INTENTION THAT THEY BE INDOCTRINATED IN COMMUNISM,
WHICH THE PNP DENIES IS ITS IDEOLOGY,

-- OR THE INDOCTRINATION OF THE YOUTHS IN MARXISM BY THE
CUBANS IS IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL
CASTRO'S STATED INTENTION TO AVOID ANY INTERFERENCE IN THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF JAMAICA.

SEAGA SAID, "THE JLP WANTS ANSWERS."

3. COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY WILL
GET THEM. HOWEVER, THE DECISION BY THE FORMER CON-
STRUCTION TRAINEES TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES ON "MARXIST-
LENINIST LINES" WILL OFFER OPPONENTS OF THE PNP
FRESH AMMUNITION TO CHALLENGE THE CREDIBILITY OF
PRESIDENT CASTRO'S NON-INTERFERENCE PLEDGE AND PRIME
MINISTER MANLEY'S CLAIMS THAT THE PNP SEEKS NO MORE
THAN "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM".
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